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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claim 1.

MPEP § 707.02, "Applications Up for Third Action and 5-Year Applications," states:

The supervisory patent examiners should impress their assistants with the fact that the shortest path to the final disposition of an application is by finding the best references on the first search and carefully applying them.

The supervisory patent examiners are expected to personally check on the pendency of every application which is up for the third or subsequent official action with a view to finally concluding its prosecution.

Any application that has been pending five years should be carefully studied by the supervisory patent examiner and every effort made to terminate its prosecution. In order to accomplish this result, the application is to be considered "special" by the examiner.

Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Examiner consult with his Supervisory Patent Examiner to expedite the conclusion of the prosecution of the present application.

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasunobu et al. (JP 05-304035) in view of Seto et al. (JP 03-171702). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 3-11.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A composite inductor element comprising:
a block made of at least either resin or rubber having a magnetic material dispersed therein, external electrodes being provided on said block; and
a plurality of spirally wound coils buried in said block, end portions of each of the plurality of coils being electrically connected to said external electrodes; wherein
the plurality of coils are arranged such that axes of all of the plurality of coils are different from each other and extend substantially parallel to one another; and
at least one of said plurality of coils has a different electrical

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characteristic produced by at least one of (1) a different number of windings of said at least one of said plurality of coils from that of the remainder of said plurality of coils, (2) a different thickness of said at least one of said plurality of coils from that of the remainder of said plurality of coils, (3) a different diameter of said at least one of said plurality of coils from that of the remainder of said plurality of coils, and (4) a different space between wound sections of said at least one of said plurality of coils from that of the remainder of said plurality of coils." (emphasis added)

Applicants' claim 1 recites the feature of "the plurality of coils are arranged such that axes of all of the plurality of coils are different from each other." With the improved features of Applicants' claim 1, Applicants have been able to provide a composite inductor element which has a significantly reduced cost and greatly reduced space requirement (see, for example, the second full paragraph on page 2 of the Specification).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the feature of "the plurality of coils are arranged such that axes of all of the plurality of coils are different from each other." Both Yasunobu et al. and Seto et al. teach that two coils (2 and 3 of Yasunobu et al.; 42-1 and 42-2 of Seto et al.) have the same axis, **NOT** that each of the coils have different axes as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Yasunobu et al. nor Seto et al. teach or suggest the feature of "the plurality of coils are arranged such that axes of all of the plurality of coils are different from each other" as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasunobu et al. in view of Seto et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yasunobu et al. and Seto et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 1 of the present application. Claims 3-11 depend upon claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

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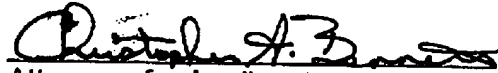
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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